

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A substrate of a disk for recording information, wherein

said substrate is made of glass containing SiO_2 in an amount of 40-80% by weight, Al_2O_3 in an amount up to 17% by weight, and at least one rare earth element selected from the group consisting of Sc, Y, Pr, Nd, Pm, Sm and Eu, and has a transmittance for visible white light of said substrate is at least 60% and is free of a compressive strengthening layer.

2. (Currently Amended) The substrate according to claim-4 28, wherein

said substrate comprises fine particles having an average particle size in the range of 1 - 100 nm and a glass matrix, and said fine particles are dispersed in said glass matrix.

3. (Previously Presented) The substrate according to claim 2, wherein

said fine particles are crystalline and

said glass matrix is amorphous.

4. (Previously Presented) The substrate according to claim 2, wherein

said glass matrix is any of soda lime glass and silicates glass.

5. (Previously Presented) The substrate according to claim 2, wherein

said rare earth element is included in said fine particles and said glass matrix.

6. (Previously Presented) The substrate according to claim 2, wherein

a volume fraction of said fine particles is in the range of 1% - 40% to the total volume of said substrate.

7. (Currently Amended) The substrate according to claim-4 28, wherein said substrate has a hardness at least Hv 640.

8. (Currently Amended) The substrate according to claim-4 28, wherein said substrate has thermal expansion coefficient in the range of $70 - 130 \times 10^{-7}$.

9. (Currently Amended) The substrate according to claim-4 28, wherein said substrate includes said rare earth element in the range of 0.5 - 15% by weight to the total amount of said substrate on a basis of converted weight to oxide Ln_2O_3 (Ln is rare earth element).

10. (Currently Amended) A recording information disk comprising a layer for recording information and a substrate, wherein said substrate is the substrate claimed in claim 4 28.

11. (Currently Amended) A recording information disk comprising a magnetic disk comprising the substrate according to claim 4 28 and a layer for recording information comprising a magnetic recording medium film.

12. (Previously Presented) The recording information disk according to claim 11, wherein

said magnetic recording medium film is formed directly on the surface of said substrate.

13. (Previously Presented) The recording information disk according to claim 10, wherein

said recording information disk is a photodisk or a photomagnetic disk,
the thickness of said substrate is, at the utmost, 0.38 mm, and
the diameter of said substrate is at least 2.5 inches.

14. (Previously Presented) An information recording disk apparatus comprising a disk for recording information,

a head for reading out information from said disk or inputting information to said disk,

a driver for said disk, and

a driver for said head, wherein

said disk is the recording information disk claimed in claim 10.

15. (Currently Amended) A hard disk apparatus comprising a magnetic disk for recording information,

a head for reading out information from said magnetic disk or inputting information to said magnetic disk,

a driver for said magnetic disk, and

a driver for said head, wherein

said magnetic disk comprises the substrate claimed in claim-1 28.

16. (Currently Amended) A photomagnetic disk for recording information, comprising the substrate according to claim-4 28.

17. (Currently Amended) A substrate of a disk for recording information, wherein

said substrate is made of glass ~~containing~~ consisting essentially of SiO_2 in an amount of 40-80% by weight, Al_2O_3 in an amount up to 17% by weight, and at least one rare earth element selected from the group consisting of Sc, Y, Pr, Nd, Pm, Sm and Eu, has a transmittance for visible white light of said substrate is at least 60% , and said substrate is free of a compressive strengthening layer.

18. (Previously Presented) The substrate according to claim 17, wherein said substrate has a surface roughness of 5Å or less.

19. (Currently Amended) The substrate according to claim-4 28, wherein said substrate has a surface roughness of 5Å or less.

20. (Previously Presented) The substrate according to claim 2, wherein said substrate has a surface roughness of 5Å or less.

21. (Previously Presented) The substrate according to claim 6, wherein said substrate has a surface roughness of 5Å or less.

22. (Previously Presented) The substrate according to claim 9, wherein said substrate has a surface roughness of 5Å or less.

23. (Previously Presented) The recording information disk according to claim 10, wherein said substrate has a surface roughness of 5Å or less.

24. (Previously Presented) The recording information disk according to claim 11, wherein said substrate has a surface roughness of 5Å or less.

25. (Previously Presented) The information recording disk apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said substrate has a surface roughness of 5Å or less.

26. (Previously Presented) The hard disk apparatus according to claim 15, wherein said substrate has a surface roughness of 5Å or less.

27. (Previously Presented) The photomagnetic disk according to claim 16, wherein said substrate has a surface roughness of 5Å or less.

28. (New) The substrate according to claim 1, wherein said glass is substantially free of a transition metal oxide.